TELEPHONE APPARATUS FOR MAKING TELEPHONE CALLS IN CONJUNCTION WITH A COMPUTING DEVICE

Abstract

A telephone apparatus for use in conjunction with a computing device. The computing device executes a telephone software application for making telephone calls over the Internet. The telephone apparatus includes an interface for receiving downstream audio packages from the computing device and for sending upstream audio packages to the computing device, and a voice compression/decompression circuit for decompressing the downstream audio packages received through the interface and for compressing upstream audio packages sent to the interface according to a predetermined voice compression protocol. An audio codec converts the decompressed downstream audio packages received from the voice compression/decompression circuit into downstream analog signals, and converts upstream analog signals into upstream audio packages sent to the voice compression/ decompression circuit. An analog audio interface outputs the downstream analog signals and receives upstream analog signals.